

Message Text

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44

ORIGIN SS-15

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 050537 TOSEC 060056

EXDIS

FOLLOWING IS REPEAT CAIRO 2794, SENT SECSTATE 2 MAR 76:

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 2794

EXDIS

FOR UNDER SECRETARY SISCO FROM AMBASSADOR

DEPT ALSO PASS SECRETARY

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS EG

SUBJECT: CONSULTATION WITH CONGRESS ON US-EGYPT MILITARY
RELATIONSHIP

REF: STATE 050355 TOSEC 060048

1. MET WITH FAHMY THIS AFTERNOON TO TELL HIM WE HAVE
BEGUN CONSULTING KEY SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN ABOUT
ESTABLISHMENT OF A LIMITED ARMS SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP
WITH EGYPT. DEPENDING ON RECEPTION ON THE HILL,
WE WOULD ENVISAGE BEING IN TOUCH WTH GOE IN DUE
COURSE RE SPECIFIC ITEMS OF EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING
THEY MAY WISH TO BUY. ALLUDING TO HIS EARLIER QUERY
RE C-130'S, I TOLD HIM WE HAVE GOE INTEREST THEREIN

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IN MIND AND HOPE GO AHEAD WITH TRANSACTION WHEN

CONGRESSIONAL CONSULTATIONS HAVE PROCEEDED FAR ENOUGH AND SATISFACTORILY ENOUGH. I STRESSED THAT WE ARE PRESENTLY THINKING IN TERMS OF RELATIVELY LIMITED ARMS SALES RELATIONSHIP WITH RESPECT TO AMOUNTS AND TYPES OF WEAPONS. WE NEVERTHELESS SEE IT AS BROADENING OUR RELATIONS WITH EGYPT AND AN IMPORTANT INDICATION OF OUR CONFIDENCE IN SADAT.

2. I THEN DETAILED FOR HIM LINE WE ARE TAKING IN OUR CONGRESSIONAL CONSULTATIONS AND LISTED THE FIVE BROAD CATEGORIES OF ARMS AS WE SEE THEM. IN DOING SO, I POINTED OUT THAT, DEPENDING ON OUTCOME OF CONGRESSIONAL CONSULTATIONS, WE WILL PROCEED TO CONSIDER SPECIFIC SALES IN FIRST THREE CATEGORIES. THIS WOULD INCLUDE C-130'S AND SEVERAL PENDING APPLICATIONS FOR PASSIVE MILITARY EQUIPMENT ITEMS. AT SOME LATER POINT, WE MIGHT WANT TO CONSIDER MORE SENSITIVE EQUIPMENT DEPENDING UPON CONGRESSIONAL REACTION. I ASKED THAT HE ADVISE THE PRESIDENT OF THE ABOVE.

3. FAHMY LISTENED ATTENTIVELY AND SAID HE ASSUMED THE LONG AWAITED PRESIDENTIAL DETERMINATION HAD BEEN SIGNED. SADAT HAD SOMEHOW RECEIVED WORD OF THIS ON HIS JUST CONCLUDED TOUR (PURHAPS FROM GHORBAL?). HE WONDERED IF USING FMS PROCEDURES, RATHER THAN COMMERCIAL CHANNELS, AND THUS HAVING TO SUBMIT SALES FORMALLY TO CONGRESS UNDER NELSON/BINGHAM AMENDMENT, WILL NOT UNHELPFULLY COMPLICATE MATTERS FOR US. COULD NOT SOME SIMPLER WAY BE FOUND? I TOLD HIM THAT IF BOTH OF OUR COUNTRIES ARE TO AVOID FUTURE PROBLEMS WITH THE CONGRESS, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT WE ESTABLISH THE PROPOSED ARMS SALES RELATIONSHIP OPEN AND ABOVE BOARD AND FOLLOW PRESCRIBED LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS. HE DID NOT PURSUE THE MATTER.

4. WHILE HE WAS PLEASED THAT C-130'S ARE ENVISAGED IN THIS INITIAL CONGRESSIONAL APPROACH, HE EXPRESSED SOME DISAPPOINTMENT THAT F-5'S AND TOW'S ARE NOT. HE NOTED THE LATTER TWO ARE DEFENSIVE WEAPONS AND
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THAT THE NUMBERS DISCUSSED BY THE PRESIDENT WITH VARIOUS CODELS WERE MODEST. THEY COULD IN NO WAY AFFECT THE BALANCE OF POWER. HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT GOE MAY STILL EVENTUALLY BE ABLE TO BUY THESE FROM US. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE NOTED THAT NEITHER C-130'S NOR TRAINING WILL HELP THE PRESIDENT A GREAT DEAL WITH THE MILITARY, BUT THAT F-5'S AND TOW'S WOULD DO SO. I RECALLED I HAD TOLD

HIM THAT IN OUR CONGRESSIONAL CONSULTATIONS WE ARE SAYING THAT WE MIGHT AT SOME LATER POINT WANT TO CONSIDER SOME MORE SENSITIVE EQUIPMENT AND WOULD LIKE TO HAVE CONGRESSIONAL VIEWS ON THIS MATTER. AS HE WOULD APPRECIATE, MUCH WILL DEPEND ON CONGRESSIONAL REACTION.

5. FAHMY UNDERTOOK TO GET WORD OF THIS TO SADAT ASAP. EILTS UNQTE INGERSOLL

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